All India Sikh Students Federation gave a call to hold a conference in the Golden Temple Complex on 26th June, 1987. In order to check the activities of the militants the police conducted searches in some buildings in the Complex. The conference was not held on 26th June, 1987. Steps have been taken to prevent the extremists from using the Complex for unlawful activities. A close watch is being maintained in this regard.

Denudation of Forest Area in Andhra Pradesh

1063. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forest area is being denuded at a staggering rate of 0.8—1.00 million hectares in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) which of the districts in Andhra Pradesh are affected thereby;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the species of trees will be extinct as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Central Government have engaged the Administrative Staff College for making a detailed study of the matter;

(e) if so, what are the findings of the study; and

(f) what action is being taken to reverse this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Central Government have not engaged the Administrative Staff College for making a detailed specific study of deforestation in Andhra Pradesh.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The following measures have been taken by the Government to reverse the trend of deforestation:—

1. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments:

(i) to avaid clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains;

(ii) to consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years:

(iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.;

2. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forest.

3. Enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

4. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Substitution of wood by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building construction.

6. Liberalised import policy for forest products.

UNCTAD-VII

1064. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Ministry of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNCTAD-VII recently met in July, 1987 in Geneva;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the meet;

(c) what proposals were made by the Indian delegation; and

(d) what was the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The proposals of the Indian delegation are subsumed in the proposals made by the Group of 77. The proposals of the Group of 77 embracing the substantive items on the agenda for UNCTAD VII; *Viz;* assessment of the relevant economic trends and formulation of policies and measures in the areas of money and finance, commodities, international trade and problems of least developed countries were finalised at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group held at Havana from 20—25 April, 1987.

Though the Conference was scheduled to conclude on 31st July, 1987, according to the reports received till the afternoon of 3rd August, 1987 discussions were still continuing.

Promotion of Iron-ore Exports

1065. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently prepared any specific proposal for the promotion of exports of Iron-ore; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI). (a) and (b) In order to promote exports of iron ore, these have to be competitive in the international market and marketing efforts have to be intensified. Government has taken steps aimed at expanding port capacity to receive large size vessels, increase in rail capacities and increased availabilty of iron ore. Iron ore exports have been diversified to new markets, and increased share had been obtained in the existing major markets.

Fire Calls in Delhi

1066. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of calls to put out fires received by the Delhi Fire Service during the last six months of the current year, monthwise;;

(b) whether the Delhi Fire Service successfully fought these fires;

(c) whether the Delhi Fire Brigade is lacking in fire engines, ambulances and manpower; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) The requisite figures are indicated below :

Month of 1937	No. of calls received
January	389 including 21 malicious
February	297 including 14 malicious
March	324 including 20 malicious
April	625 including 37 malicious
May	644 including 44 malicious
June	752 including 32 malicious
TOTAL :	3031 including 168 malicious

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Delhi Fire Service is fairly well equipped, in this respect.

(d) A grant of Rs. 11.83 crores has been sanctioned for the Delhi Fire